

Chief Executive Officer: Sir John Townsley BA (Hons) NPQH  
Chair of the Board: Mrs A McAvan BA (Hons) NPQH

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21 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to write to you as The GORSE Academies Trust's Director of Inclusion. As part of my role, I work with colleagues across the Trust to carefully consider the taught curriculum around PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) and over the course of the last twelve months we have embarked upon a further review of the subject content and our modes of delivery following the implementation of the compulsory curriculum from September 2020.

As you will no doubt be aware, young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and finding themselves interchanging between on and offline activity frequently and seamlessly. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to stay safe and healthy and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way; collectively we have a responsibility to work in partnership to achieve this.

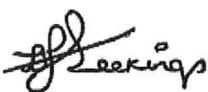
From September 2020 the UK government made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and some aspects of Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools. The key decisions in respect of this have been informed by a thorough engagement process, including a public call for evidence that received over 23,000 responses from parents, young people, schools and experts and a public consultation where over 40,000 people contacted the Department for Education.

The Government's guiding principles for the Sex and Relationships Education have been that all of the compulsory subject content must be age and developmentally appropriate; it must be taught sensitively and inclusively with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of students and parents, whilst always with the aim of providing students with the knowledge they need of the law.

Within The GORSE Academies Trust we have always taken our role of educating young people across all aspects of PSHE and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) values very seriously and we seek to regularly discuss and debate challenging issues with our young people and to immerse them in a culture which celebrates and embraces difference. As parents/carers we are keen to ensure you have a clear understanding of the progression of content that we explore with our young people during their time with us. I would, therefore, like to encourage you to access a copy of the Curriculum Overview for PSHE and discuss this in more detail with your child. The Curriculum Overview documents can be found on your academy's website in the Personal Development section alongside the UK Government requirements for the provision of PSHE.

If you have any questions or anything you would like to raise in relation to this, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Debra Seekings  
Partnership Director for Inclusion